

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 SSM-03

MCT-01 IO-13 AID-05 OC-06 CCO-00 ACDA-07 OMB-01

TRSE-00 /107 W

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O R 281550Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1903

DIA WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI PRIORITY

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 7740

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJECT: RENEWED FIGHTING IN LEBANON

REF: BEIRUT 7710

1. IT APPEARS THAT MAJOR BATTLE BETWEEN SYRIAN/
CHRISTIAN FORCES AND PLO/LEBANESE LEFTIST FORCES IS
NOW UNDER WAY IN MOUNTAINS OF THE HIGH METN.
ACCORDING TO LEFTIST RADIO LEBANON, SYRIAN/CHRISTIAN
FORCES OPENED THEIR ATTACK WITH ARTILLERY BARRAGE
AT DAWN SEPT 28 AND HAVE CONTINUED HEAVY SHELLING
AND ROCKET/MACHINE-GUN FIRE THROUGHOUT THE DAY.
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SAME SOURCE SAYS SYRIANS ARE ADVANCING NORTHWEST

FROM ZAHLE AND FIRING FROM SOFAR AREA, WHILE CHRISTIANS ARE MOVING SOUTH FROM BESKINTA. BOTH SIDES CLAIM THEY ARE INFLECTING HEAVY LOSSES ON THE ENEMY, BUT THERE IS SO FAR LITTLE NEWS OF ACTUAL TROOP MOVEMENTS OR IMPORTANT PIECES OF TERRITORY THAT HAVE CHANGED HANDS. THERE HAVE BEEN SOME REPORTS THAT SYRIAN/CHRISTIAN ELEMENTS OF LEBANESE ARMY ARE ENGAGED. LEFTIST RADIO LEBANON IS GIVING MUCH MORE DETAILED ACCOUNT OF THE FIGHTING AND HAS NOW REACHED REPORT NUMBER 15.

2. LEFTIST RADIO LEBANON ALSO SAYS YASSIR ARAFAT SENT MESSAGE TO ALL ARAB KINGS AND PRESIDENTS AND PHONED KING KHALID, QADDAFI AND BOUMEDIENNE SEPT 28, STATING THAT SYRIAN/CHRISTIAN FORCES ATTACKED WITHOUT PROVOCATION WHILE PALESTINIAN FORCES WERE MAINTAINING CEASEFIRE AND PLO WAS ATTEMPTING TO WORK OUT PEACEFUL SOLUTION. (HE ALSO CHARGED ADDITIONAL SYRIAN FORCES HAVE ENTERED LEBANON.) HE CALLED ON ARAB LEADERS TO USE THEIR INFLUENCE TO STOP FIGHTING, WHICH COULD ONLY RESULT IN DAMAGE TO ALL ARAB NATIONS. RADIO LEBANON ALSO SAYS THAT SADAT CRITICIZED SYRIAN AATTACK IN HIS SEPT 28 SPEECH.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CIVIL DISORDERS, DISSIDENT FACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BEIRUT07740
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760365-1125
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760914/aaaaalod.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 BEIRUT 7710
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 APR 2004 by CollinP0>; APPROVED <13 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RENEWED FIGHTING IN LEBANON
TAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT, LE
To: STATE DIA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006